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Reports

Item#1
The Challenge of North Korean Biological Weapons. RAND Corporation. Bruce Bennett. Testimony presented before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities on October 11, 2013.

This is the transcript of the testimony presented before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities on October 11, 2013.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/CT400/CT401/RAND_CT401.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages, 0.5 MB].

Item#2

Facing the Facts: Towards a New U.S. North Korea Policy. Brookings Institution. Evans J.R. Revere. October 2013.

For two decades, the United States has sought to end North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Occasional success in freezing elements of that program, together with pledges by Pyongyang to end it, inspired hope that denuclearization could actually be achieved. Hope also grew from the belief that there existed a collection of incentives, including diplomatic normalization, security guarantees, and food assistance, which would convince Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions. According to the report, these hopes have been dashed. U.S. policy has failed to achieve its objective. However, important lessons have been learned from years of negotiating with Pyongyang.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2013/10/16%20north%20korea%20denuclearization%20revere/16%20north%20korea%20denuclearization%20revere%20paper> [PDF format, 25 pages, 180 KB].

Item#3

The Dragon's Spear: China's Asymmetric Strategy. YaleGlobal. Loro Horta. October 17, 2013.

As the world's leading military powers invent new weapons systems, other nations develop countermeasures. "China has no illusions about its military inferiority vis-à-vis the United States and knows that the status is likely to endure for at least two decades," explains security analyst Loro Horta. "As such the PLA has been developing a full range of asymmetric strategies to deter the U.S. until its military reaches maturity." Horta describes the rapid modernization of China's military and its study of history, especially the experiences of underdogs who prevailed in war. China's ambitious projects include anti-satellite missiles, lasers and the DF-21A anti-ship ballistic missile that could target aircraft carriers. Asymmetric strategies are the dominant force of China's military, even as the country invests in and builds technological capability. Horta urges the United States and other nations to recognize and appreciate China's full range of asymmetric strategies even as technology matures.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/dragon%E2%80%99s-spear-china%E2%80%99s-asymmetric-strategy> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Leveraging Observations of Security Force Assistance in Afghanistan for Global Operations. RAND Corporation. Leslie Adrienne Payne and Jan Osburg. October 16, 2013.

Interviews with Security Force Assistance (SFA) practitioners in Afghanistan reveal insights that can be applied to future global operations. The enduring nature of most challenges that these practitioners face suggests that solutions still remain uncertain. Future SFA missions, such as those envisioned for the U.S. Army's Regionally Aligned Forces, can benefit from the experience gained from SFA in Afghanistan as presented in the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR400/RR416/RAND_RR416.pdf [PDF format, 56 pages, 1.5 MB].

Item#5

Saudi Arabia's Image Falters among Middle East Neighbors. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. October 17, 2013.

Each year, the world is reminded of Saudi Arabia's influential status as the birthplace of Islam, as hundreds of thousands of Muslims from across the globe make the Hajj, or pilgrimage, to the city of Mecca. Perhaps owing to its pivotal role within the Islamic faith, Saudi Arabia tends to be viewed favorably in countries that are home to large or majority-Muslim populations. However, a Pew Research Center survey reveals that Saudi Arabia's standing has slipped substantially among key Middle Eastern publics, including in Lebanon where favorable opinion has plummeted 31 percentage points since 2007. In contrast, opinion of Saudi Arabia has not soured in other predominately Muslim countries outside of the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2013/10/Pew-Research-Center-Saudi-Arabia-Report-Final-October-17-20133.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages, 353.25 KB].

Item#6

NATO Missile Defense and the European Phased Adaptive Approach: The Implications of Burden-Sharing and the Underappreciated Role of the U.S. Army. Strategic Studies Institute. Steven J. Whitmore and John R. Deni. October 18, 2013.

NATO's ballistic missile defense initiative remains a work in progress, but a lack of interceptor and sensor contributions on the part of the European allies is likely to have significant implications for the U.S. Army. In particular, the U.S. Army is likely to face increased manpower demands, materiel requirements, and training needs in order to meet the demand signal created by the NATO ballistic missile defense program.

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1172> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file, 71 pages].

Item#7

Conflict Management and Peacebuilding: Pillars of a New American Grand Strategy. Strategic Studies Institute. Volker C. Franke and Robert H. Dorff, eds. October 16, 2013.

The authors examine the utility of the U.S. Government's whole-of-government (WoG) approach for responding to the challenging security demands of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. They specifically discuss the strategic objectives of interagency cooperation particularly in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict management.

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/files/1165-summary.pdf> Executive Summary [PDF format, 2 pages, 624.56 KB].

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1165> Full Text [HTML format with a link to the PDF file, 426 pages].

Item#8

Tea Party's Image Turns More Negative. Pew Reserch Center for the People & the Press. October 16, 2013.

The Tea Party is less popular than ever, with even many Republicans now viewing the movement negatively. Overall, nearly half of the public (49%) has an unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party, while 30% have a favorable opinion. The balance of opinion toward the Tea Party has turned more negative since June, when 37% viewed it favorably and 45% had an unfavorable opinion. And the Tea Party's image is much more negative today than it was three years ago, shortly after it emerged as a conservative protest movement against Barack Obama's policies on health care and the economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/10-16-13%20Tea%20Party%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages, 418.68 KB].

Item#9

How Americans Get TV News at Home. Pew Research Journalism Project. Amy Mitchell et al. October 11, 2013.

Even at a time of fragmenting media use, television remains the dominant way that Americans get news at home, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of Nielsen data. And while the largest audiences tune into local and network broadcast news, it is national cable news that commands the most attention from its viewers. Almost three out of four U.S. adults (71%) watch local television news and 65% view network newscasts over the course of a month, according to Nielsen data from February 2013. While 38% of adults watch some cable news during the month, cable viewers--particularly the most engaged viewers--spend far more time with that platform than broadcast viewers do with local or network news.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.journalism.org/files/2013/10/Nielsen_Latest_10-11.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages, 355.20 KB].

Item#10

Online Dating & Relationships. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith and Maeve Duggan. October 21, 2013.

One in ten Americans have used an online dating site or mobile dating app; 66% of these online daters have gone on a date with someone they met through a dating site or app, and 23% have met a spouse or long term partner through these sites. Public attitudes toward online dating have become more positive in recent years, but many users also report negative experiences.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2013/PIP_Online%20Dating%202013.pdf [PDF format, 57 pages, 1.37 MB].